

# Public Health Council

STATE OF WISCONSIN

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 8, 2011

**WISCONSIN MEDICAL SOCIETY, 330 E. LAKESIDE STREET, MADISON**

**Council Members Present:** Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk (Chair); Dr. Gary Gilmore (Chair-Elect); Dr. Mary Jo Baisch; Mr. Bevan Baker; Ms. Amy Bremel; Ms. Bridget Clementi; Ms. Faye Dodge; Ms. Susan Garcia Franz; Ms. Catherine Frey; Ms. Terri Kramolis; Dr. John Meurer; Ms. Deborah Miller; Dr. A. Charles Post; Dr. Ayaz Samadani; Ms. Gretchen Sampson; Dr. James Sanders and Mr. Thai Vue.

**Council Members Absent:** Mr. John Bartkowski; Dr. Corazon Loteyro; Mr. Douglas Nelson; Dr. Lynn Sheets; and Mr. Mark Villalpando.

**Division of Public Health (DPH) Staff:** State Health Officer Dr. Henry Anderson; Ms. Margaret Schmelzer; and Mr. Kevin Wymore.

**Guests:** Ms. Kris Freundlich; Mr. Kevin Moore; Mr. Eric Ostermann, and Mr. Kelly Scott.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was convened shortly after 10 a.m. by the Chair, Dr. Julie Willems Van Dijk.

### **Minutes**

The Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the February meeting, without correction. The list of attendees was amended with Mr. Thai Vue's absence from the April meeting.

### **Evaluation**

The Council reviewed the meeting evaluation results from the February 11, 2011 meeting. The overall evaluation score averaged 3.9 on a 4.0 scale. Qualitative comments underscored the members' overall satisfaction with the prior meeting. Recommendations for future meeting agenda topics included: public health funding and budgeting; impact of position freezes on implementing public health grants; and other issues.

**Meeting Schedule/Format Issue:**

The Chair reported that, due to budget limitations, the number of face-to-face meetings will be limited to four. Alternatives were discussed. The Council will use the "Live Meeting" technology for the meeting in June and in December, and hold face-to-face meetings in August and October.

**Council Membership Issues:**

The Council heard an update about Council membership issues. The Chair requested that council members whose terms expire in July should notify Ms. Pat Guhleman if they wish to request membership renewal. A total of eight of the 22 current members have terms expiring in July. Staff were asked to send the "membership status table" and the membership roster to Council members.

**2010 Annual Report**

With relatively little discussion, the Council approved the 2010 Annual Report.

**Open Forum**

No one addressed the Council in the Open Forum.

**Wisconsin Public Health Association "Healthy Jobs Bill" and Discussion**

The Council heard a follow-up presentation from Wisconsin Public Health Association Executive Director Eric Ostermann about a "Healthy Jobs" legislative proposal. Though the idea remains in the bill drafting process, the proposal's centerpiece is a workplace wellness tax credit, paid for by a \$5 million per year chronic disease prevention fund. The credit would encourage companies to create workplace wellness programs. WPHA has dropped pursuit of seeking tribal cigarette tax revenues to pay for the programs. No formal action was taken by the Council.

**State Budget Analysis/Legislative Update**

The Council heard a state budget analysis and legislative update from the new Department of Health Services Executive Assistant, Mr. Kevin Moore. He detailed the changes for the Governor's 2011-2013 biennial budget, as spelled out in the recent Fiscal Bureau analysis for public health items, and welcomed questions and comments from the Council. Mr. Moore noted that the Fiscal Bureau analysis is the "gold standard" of non-partisan budget analysis.

In addition to the items listed in the Legislative Fiscal Bureau analysis under public health, Mr. Moore noted that Governor Walker's budget proposal would cut most general purpose revenue appropriations by 10 percent, and this would affect certain public health programs.

Local health officers Ms. Jean Durch and Ms. Gretchen Sampson also provided their perspectives. Ms. Durch noted that local health departments, through continued investments in public health programs, could help curtail the Medicaid budget. Ms. Sampson noted that each time public health programs are cut, it affects the capacity of local health departments to have a prepared workforce. Some Council members stated

that the Walker administration's proposals would significantly impact their communities, and recipients of key public health programs. Several members, Ms. Mary Jo Baisch, Ms. Susan Garcia Franz, and Ms. Gretchen Sampson, spoke to the importance of maintaining funding for the family planning waiver as an important source of primary care for young families.

### **Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Update**

The Council heard Ms. Margaret Schmelzer provide a short update of the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 process and proposed implementation steps for the plan. Ms. Schmelzer talked mainly about the need to track and report on progress. DPH is designing a summary report on the *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010* document, to be published at the end of 2011, to focus on health priorities from 2010. DPH is also working on a tracking system for the newer 2020 document.

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee Report**

Mr. Bevan Baker provided a short update to the Council on that Committee. Mr. Baker noted that the Committee is being reconstituted and will meet April 13.

### **"Live Meeting" Presentation**

The Council observed a live demonstration of "Live Meeting" remote-meeting software by Mr. Kelly Scott, of the DHS IT department. Opportunities to test-run their computer will be offered to Council members prior to the June 10 meeting.

### **DPH Infrastructure Grant Details**

Mr. Wymore said that DPH would apply for continuation funding for the Affordable Care Act-funded program. Ms. Mary Young of DPH is the contact person for the grant.

### **Blue Cross/Blue Shield Follow-Up Discussion**

Chair-elect Dr. Gary Gilmore reported on follow-up communications with the two medical schools' response to the Legislative Audit Bureau's report on the Medical Education, Research and Public Health Grants. Potential policy options with the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation (WUHF), the umbrella foundation, were discussed. It was noted that Council recommendations were previously made to WUHF in a letter sent December 2010 and that any Council follow-up should be in addition to the December action.

Recusing themselves due to potential conflict of interest were: Dr. Willems Van Dijk; Ms. Cathy Frey; Dr. John Meurer; Mr. Bevan Baker; and Dr. James Sanders.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at about 2:20 p.m.

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**Mary Jo Baisch, Secretary**

**Date**